(b) and (c) The requisite information is given below:—

District	No. of HP's Retail Outlets	No. of HP's distributorships	Sales of Petrol May' 04 to July' 04 (in KL)	Sales of diesel May' 04 to July' 04 (in KL)
E. Godavari	40	27	3252	12900
W. Godavari	28	22	1997	8699
Krishna	29	20	2488	13272
Guntur	40	23	2624	13816

(d) Regular surveys are carried out by the company for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and Gas distributorships and based on feasibility, the location are rostered. HPCL endeavours to ensure that the operations of the Outlets/Gas distributorships are in line with Dealership Agreement and regular/surprise inspections are carried out in line with industry norms.

Ban on new gas connections

†2200. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have put a ban on new gas connections;

(b) if so, till when;

(c) whether any foreign company has been given permission for its production and distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The release of new connections by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has been affected by shortage of cylinders due to cylinder manufacturers not honouring their commitment on supplies because of continous increases in steel prices. This has resulted in some build-up of waiting lists of new customers. Government have, therefore directed OMCs to liquidate by mid-September the waiting list of LPG customers as on 1.8.2004.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.